

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

READ the following letter

from the Inspector General of Jails dated 9th
November 1883 N^o 316.

I have the honor to forward for
the information of Govt. the accompanying letter
from the Superintendent of the Central Jail,
Vellore, Major McCleod, reporting that he
has withdrawn the Convicts from working
in association with free-labourers, on
account of the prevalence of cholera in
the town and station of Vellore. I con-
sider these precautions highly expedient
and I approve of the action of the Superintendent.

2. It is necessary to report this
circumstance to Government as I fear the
withdrawal of the prisoners may cause
some inconvenience to the Engineer de-
partment.

3. I have also informed the
Sanitary Commissioners of Madras.

Letter from the Supt^r. Central Jail, Vellore,
to the Inspector General of Jails dated
7th November 1883 N^o 1094.

I have the honor to report
that Cholera having assumed an epidemic
form in the Regiment stationed here as
well as in the Town, I addressed the
officer in Medical charge regarding
the employment of the Convicts with
free labors, (residents of the Town) at
the Superintendent's quarters now in
course of construction. In reply Dr.
Lancaster writes "that to avoid all
"risk and to isolate so far as possible
"the prisoners from any source of in-
"fection (which if any case of cholera
"occur in the jail may be by some attri-
"buted to the Town workmen mixing
"with the prisoners) it would be advisable
"for the present and till the course of
"the epidemic in the Town is watched
"to prohibit the workmen from the
Town

Town working with the Prisoners at the
"new house. The "power of infection" in
"Cholera is a weak one and the risk
"of infection is, I believe, and know
"to be small. Still to avoid any risk whatever,
"I have given the above advice." Under
these circumstances I have from today
discontinued the employment of Prisoners
at the Superintendent's quarters. I am
aware that this action on my part will
cause serious inconvenience to the Dept^t.
of Public Works, as well as considerable
delay in the execution of the work, but
the introduction of cholera into the jail
is so serious a matter (even though as
Dr. Lancaster believes the risk is small,
that I do not consider I am justified
in running any risks whatever.

The repairs to the roofs
of the jail buildings which are also at
present being proceeded with, will have to
be stopped, and I have given orders ac-
cordingly.

Y^{rs}

I may mention that the present aspect of the epidemic does not appear from report to be of a severe nature; still, there is no doubt that Cholera does exist in the Town and that there have been seizures daily from some days past, both among the Towns people and Regiment.

You will observe that though Dr. Lancaster has written as before & quoted this opinion was only elicited upon my addressing him, and it is clear he does not consider any great risk of the importation of the disease to the jail by means of free workmen to have existed at all. If under these circumstances, you are of opinion I have been unduly cautious, I will send the men back to work, but do not propose doing so pending orders.

Order

Order thereon 23^d November 1883 N^o 3105
The action of the Superintendent is approved.

These papers will be communicated to the Public Works Department.

(True Extract)

Mannick

Acting Joint Secretary

To The Inspector General of Jails
Public Works Department

S.D.

M. No. 10472

Govt. of (188) Madras.

No 3408 Wd/ Nov 29th 1883

Communicated to
the Suptg Engineer
Fourth Circ. Cyl.

LL

26/11

26-11-83

To

The Public Works Deptt

Res 26/11/83

Proceedings, dated 23rd November 1883.

No. 3105 Pm.

Subject.

No 3408 Wd/ Nov 29th 1883.

Copy letter from the Sg
of P.W.D. forwarding a letter
from the Supt of C. P.W.D.
Kollor reporting the
withdrawal of the Committee
from working in association
with free laborers on
account of the prevalence
of cholera.

S. E. to Circ. Cyl.

29/11

Job 1/12

With order
With order